CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

A method for rendering audio, the method comprising:

receiving by a dedicated home network enabled digital-to-analog audio bridging

device (ABD), digital audio data transmitted across a network from a remotely located

4 audio host;

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determining by the ABD whether the digital audio data is encoded according to

6 one of a plurality of coding schemes;

decoding by the ABD encoded digital audio data based upon a determined

coding scheme; anվ

converting by the ABD the digital audio data to analog audio and outputting the

analog audio for use by a loudspeaker proximately located to the ABD.

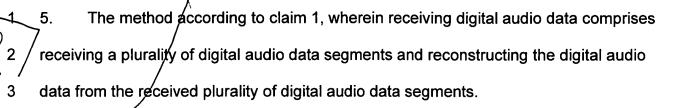
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the audio host is a general purpose computing device having an operating system.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the digital audio data is encoded by

-t∦e audio host.

The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of coding schemes

2 include mp3, wav, au, and aiff.



- The method according to claim 5, wherein the coding scheme is determined by dentifying an indicator code included within at least one of the plurality of digital audio data segments.
- 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein decoding further comprises:

 determining whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and

 decompressing the compressed digital audio data based upon the determined

 coding scheme.
- 1 8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising outputting the analog audio 2 to an amplification device.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the digital audio data is received across at least 2 one of a plurality of home-based networks including a phoneline network, a powerline 3 network, and a HomeRF network.
- 1 10. A digital-to-analog audio bridge comprising:
- 2 a network interface to receive digital audio data transmitted over a network from
- 3 a remote audio host;

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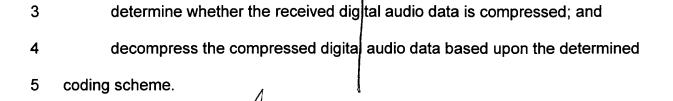
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4	a processor coupled with	the network interface to:
5	identify which one	of a plurality of coding schemes the received digital
6	audio data has been enco	ded with, and
7	decode the encode	d digital audio data based upon the identified coding
8	scheme; and	
9	a converter coupled to the	processor to convert the received digital audio data to
10	analog audio for use by a proxim	ately located loudspeaker.

- 11. The digital-to-analog audio bridge according to claim 10, wherein the network interface enables communication between the digital-to-analog audio bridge and the network audio host over at least one of a plurality of home-based networks including a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.
- 1 12. The digital-to-analog audio bridge according to claim 10, wherein the loudspeaker is coupled to the converter.
- 1 13. The digital-to-analog audio bridge according to claim 10, wherein the plurality of coding schemes include mp3, wav, au, and aiff.
 - 14. The digital-to-analog audio bridge according to claim 10, further comprising a read only memory coupled to the processor to store at least one CODEC.

- 1 15. The digital-to-analog audio bridge according to claim 10, wherein the processor
- 2 decompresses the digital audio data if it is determined that the digital audio data is
- 3 compressed.
 - 16. A residential networ∦ audio system comprising:
 - a host device disposed in a first area of a residential structure to transmit digital
- 3 audio data over a network; and
- a digital-to-analog audio bridge disposed in a second area of the residential
- 5 structure, communicatively coupled with the host, to receive the digital audio data
- 6 transmitted from the host, to identify by which of a plurality of coding schemes the
- 7 received digital audio data is encoded, to decode the received digital audio data based
 - upon the identified coding scheme, and to convert the received digital audio data to
- 9 analog audio for use with a loudspeaker.
- 1 17. The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the host
- 2 device comprises a general purpos computing device.
 - 18. The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the network comprises a home-based network including at least one of a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.
 - 1 19. The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the digital-
- 2 to-analog audio bridge is further disposed to:



20. The residential/network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the digital audio data is transmitted according to the real-time transport protocol (RTP).

An article comprising a machine readable medium having a plurality of machine 21. readable instructions stored thereon, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions subscribe the processor to:

receive digital audio data transmitted across a network from an audio host; determine whether the digital audio data is encoded according to one of a plurality of coding schemes;

decode encoded digital audio data based upon a determined coding scheme;

and

convert the digital audib data to analog audio suitable for use with a loudspeaker;

- The article of claim 21, wherein the digital audio data is transmitted across a 1 22.
- 2 home-based network including at least one of a phoneline network, a powerline
- network, and a HomeRF network 3